

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 311158
ORIGIN OPR-02

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APPROVED BY A:JMTHOMAS

A/O:LJDUPRE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 311158

FOR DAY MOUNT ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: INTERPRETERS FOR VISIT TO FRANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED ON INTERPRETERS
ASSIGNED FOR VISIT TO FRANCE.

2. BOTH ALEC TOUMAYAN AND SOPHIA PORSON ARE SENIOR
EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT, WITH OVER 15 YEARS
OF INTERPRETING EXPERIENCE.

3. ALEC TOUMAYAN HAS INTERPRETED FOR EVERY PRESIDENT
SINCE KENNEDY. HE INTERPRETED FOR PRESIDENT CARTER IN
RECENT MEETINGS WITH MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER, THE
PRESIDENT OF DJIBOUTI, AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE, AS
WELL AS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEONS AT THE UNGA FOR THE
AFRICAN AND ASIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE INTERPRETED FOR
THE VISIT LAST YEAR OF FRANCOIS MITTERAND, INCLUDING A
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON. HE HAS BEEN THE PRINCIPAL
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INTERPRETER FOR THE VISITS OF EVERY FRENCH-SPEAKING CHIEF
OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT SINCE 1964.

4. SOPHIA PORSON RANKS SECOND ONLY TO TOUMAYAN IN
EXPERIENCE AS A FRENCH INTERPRETER, AND HAS ALSO INTER-
PRETED FOR EVERY AMERICAN PRESIDENT SINCE KENNEDY. SHE

WAS MRS. CARTER'S INTERPRETER DURING THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT
TO BRAZIL IN JUNE. CHRISTOPHER

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